

[CONFIDENTIAL]

[No. 33 of 1875.]

REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

The Week ending the 25th September 1875.

THE *Rājshāhye Samāchār*, of the 3rd September, dwells on the inconveniences of the zemindars at the present time. To keep up their prestige, they are obliged to maintain a style of living far above their means. They are put to great expense in their endeavours to satisfy Government, on the one hand, by doing works of public utility and charity; and society, on the other, by providing costly treats and diversions for the people. While the imposition of new cesses and a rise in prices have greatly affected the zemindar's income, his habits of living have become also more luxurious, and therefore more costly than before. Few of the land-holding class possess waste land, to any considerable extent, which might, if reclaimed, be productive of the means of increasing their income. The high rates of rent, which obtain at the present time, preclude the possibility of levying any cesses from the tenantry. All these considerations should teach the zemindars to practise economy in their expenditure; and with the savings which they would thus be enabled to make, they might purchase shares in Joint-Stock Companies, or engage in such commercial speculations as might promote the wealth of the country.

RAJSHAHY
SAMACHAR,
September 3rd, 1875.

2. The *Burrishal Bārtābā*, of the 15th September, after remarking that the imposition of the road cess was a violation of the terms of the Permanent Settlement made with the zemindars, and that it may be intended as a preliminary act to do away with that settlement altogether, asks Government to attend to the hardships and inconvenience to which people in the mofussil are subjected, in submitting their road cess papers to the officer in charge at the sudder station. Being frequently put off on trifling pretexts, they are made to dance attendance from day to day, and are needlessly obliged to absent themselves from their homes for many days. They are, besides, required to furnish information regarding their income, which is often irrelevant to the subject.

BURRISHAL
BARTABANA,
September 15th, 1875.

3. The same paper thanks Government for introducing the Reformatory Schools' Bill into the Legislative Council, and hopes that its defects will be gradually removed. The attention of the authorities is moreover directed to the necessity of a similar law for the benefit of female juvenile offenders.

BURRISHAL
BARTABANA.

4. The *Bishwa Dūt*, of the 15th September, observes on the Resolution of the Bengal Government on the system of summary trials, that the Lieutenant-Governor should not have formed his conclusions without at first consulting the views of the people. The Commissioners' reports, on which that resolution is based, were doubtless compiled from those submitted by Magistrates, whose opinions should have been regarded as the least reliable.

BISHWA DUT,
September 15th, 1875.

With the people the system has been extremely unpopular. The Lieutenant-Governor should have remembered that the inhabitants of Bengal had, with one voice, protested against the passing of the sections, relating to summary trials, into law. Was it not precisely on this ground that Sir George Campbell was so unpopular with natives? We regret that we cannot agree with the views expressed by His Honor on the utility of the system in question.

DACCA DARSHAK,
September 16th, 1875.

5. The *Dacca Darshak*, of the 16th September, in an editorial on "Appeals," after praising the just administration of the British Government, makes the following observations:—We cannot but remonstrate with Government, on one point, in connection with this subject. Suitors are occasionally subjected to considerable inconvenience, from there being no appeals allowed from the summary decisions of Moonsifs, in all suits instituted under section 15, of Act XIV of 1859, in which a party is dispossessed. These decisions being frequently erroneous, the party ousted is allowed to institute a fresh suit to establish his title to the land. This, however, is a tedious and expensive process. We therefore ask the Indian Legislative Council to amend section 15, of Act XIV of 1859, and provide for appeals against the summary decisions of Moonsifs passed in accordance with that section.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
September 16th, 1875.

6. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, of the 16th September, in an article on "Certain districts in Bengal," compares the statistics of production and population in the districts of Hooghly, Jessore, and Krishnaghur, and remarks that, in the last, there are large quantities of fertile land lying waste and left uncultivated, owing to the scantiness of the population. The rent rate here is also very low. The peasantry, however, are not so hard-working or so well up in their work as the cultivators in the other two districts, where the entire area of culturable land is comparatively smaller, and the population denser and better versed in agricultural pursuits. The districts of Midnapore and Mymensingh also are similar to Krishnaghur in this respect. It is suggested that those, that would seek to be rich, and to augment the wealth of the country, should purchase lands in the Krishnaghur district, and invest their capital in agriculture.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
September 17th, 1875.

7. The *Education Gazette*, of the 17th September, remarks, in reference to the proposition of His Honor to open hostels, for the benefit of students in connection with colleges and schools, that the persons to be appointed as guardians should, besides attending to the morals and the proper accommodation of the students, superintend their studies, and be respectable and elderly men. Sir Richard Temple has earned the gratitude of our fellow countrymen for his noble efforts in the cause of education.

EDUCATION GAZETTE.

8. A correspondent of the same paper, observes, with regret, that a class of crimes of very frequent occurrence is perpetrated with impunity, owing to the police not being authorized under the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code to arrest the criminals without, in the first instance, obtaining a warrant from the Magistrate. The exigencies of the case are sometimes such, that the police are not able to resort to this mode of procedure, and the consequence is that criminals go unpunished. To remedy this unpleasant state of things, it is suggested that the offences mentioned in sections 415, 417, 418, 419, and 420 should be added to the class of crimes which are cognizable by the police.

BHARAT SANGSKARAN,
September 17th, 1875.

9. The *Bharat Sangskaran*, of the 17th September, regrets to notice that, in the Queen's speech adjourning Parliament, a very slight mention

indeed made of India; and that only in reference to the murder of an Englishman in China. Except questions which affect the dignity and interests of England, any other subjects receive hardly any attention from Her Majesty. There was no reference made to such grave affairs as the deposition of Mulharao, the peace with Burmah, or the advance of the Russians in Central Asia.

10. The same paper remarks that the Government of India has very judiciously, and in time, saved the Prince of Wales from a painful embarrassment, which His Royal Highness would doubtless have been put to, had the native princes and chiefs been left free to give him costly presents, and to expect others equally expensive in return. The resolution, on the giving of presents to the Prince, has been a very wise one; though it will disappoint not a few native chiefs, who had hoped, in this way, to evince their loyalty and importance in the eyes of the Prince. It will, moreover, strikingly betray the poverty of the English crown, when the fact of the Prince's liabilities and limited income becomes known to the people; and mere glitter and sport will hardly please those, who will learn, with regret, that his disinclination to receive presents proceeds only from a consciousness of his inability to make others in return.

BNARAT
SANGSHAKAN,
September 17th, 1875.

11. The *Grāmbārta Prakāshikā*, of the 18th September, dwells on the well-deserved popularity of Mr. Skrine, the Joint-Magistrate of Chooadanga, and the local Sub-Inspector of Police, for their generous exertions in saving numbers of villages and rice-fields from inundation. It is hoped that officers in other places will learn to follow the noble example of Mr. Skrine in their dealings with the people.

GRAMBARTA
PRAKASHIKA,
September 18th, 1875.

12. The *Hindu Hitoishini*, of the 18th September, while admitting that the establishment of rural sub-registry offices has removed a considerable amount of inconvenience, which used to be previously experienced in registering documents; remarks that it has given birth to a serious evil at the same time. Through the connivance of a number of intriguing mookhtears, who infest these registry offices, and the incompetency and unprincipled character of some sub-registrars, who are generally old Government pensioners, forgeries are frequently committed, and innocent and simple men absolutely ruined. Government should either abolish the rural sub-registry offices, or cease to appoint to them old pensioned officers.

HINDU HITOSHINI,
September 18th, 1875.

13. Adverting to the habitual and disinterested charity, and the public spirit of Ray Bahadur Kally Narayan Ray of Bhāwāl, the same paper regrets that the title of "Rajah Bahadur" has not been conferred on him.

HINDU HITOSHINI.

14. The same paper dwells on the inefficiency of the Dacca police, and attributes it to the worthlessness and indolence of the town and the Bhojpori constables. The Inspectors are all clever and energetic men; and distinguished themselves, while in charge of the mofussil stations, by their intelligence and success in detecting criminals; in which, however, they were greatly aided by the village constables, who, as a body, are more attached to their superiors than those in towns. But the inferiority of the tools, with which they are obliged to work in the sudder station, renders their utmost efforts nugatory; and hence the large number of crimes that are frequently perpetrated at Dacca, without the offenders being traced and brought to justice. The indifference of the higher authorities also is another cause of this inefficiency. Government is besought to attend to this subject, and use means for removing the disgrace under which the police at Dacca is labouring at present.

HINDU HITOSHINI.

DACCA PRAKASH,
September 19th, 1876.

15. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 19th September, writing on the reports of the Commissioners on the working of the system of summary trials, remarks that their views do not furnish a correct index to the opinions of the people in regard to the system in question. The sections in the Criminal Procedure Code relating to summary trials were strongly opposed at the time when they were passed; and we cannot say that the grounds of opposition have since ceased to exist. The despotic Magistrates in the Mofussil are very fond of exercising summary powers; and often use them to gratify their spite towards individuals, who may happen to be obnoxious to them. If the system be allowed to remain in force, it would only revive the anarchy of the days of the Mahomedan Nawabs. If the Lieutenant-Governor is really desirous to know whether the system has met with the approbation of the public, he should rather consult the people than rely on the opinions of officers, whose interest it is to represent the matter so as to ensure its continuance.

SOM PRAKASH,
September 20th, 1876.

16. The *Som Prakash*, of the 20th September, dwelling on the decline in the general healthiness and physique of natives, ascribes it, among other causes, to the hours of work in schools, which are not at all suited to the climate and the habits of the people. It is suggested that the schools should be kept open in the morning, from daybreak to 11 A.M., and again in the afternoon from 3 P.M. to sunset. This will be a convenient arrangement. The teachers should moreover lodge in the same building with the pupils.

SOM PRAKASH.

17. That Sir Richard Temple, says the same paper, really desires the good of the subjects, has been once more clearly illustrated by his recent minutes on the establishment of high schools and hostels for the benefit of native students. And if His Honor succeeds in carrying out his schemes, an immense amount of good will be done to the country. It is also to be desired that Sir Richard Temple will not grow indifferent to the matter of the education of natives in gymnastics and the mechanical arts.

SAHACHAR,
September 20th, 1876.

18. The *Sahachar*, of the 20th September, is gratified to find that Sir Richard Temple has asked the permission of the Government of India for the construction of a light branch railway line from Bankipore to Gya, and hopes that sanction will be accorded to the proposal. The measure, if carried out, will be highly beneficial to the country, and will promote the already brisk trade of this part of Behar. The inconvenience arising from bad roads and want of accommodation, complained of by the very large number of pilgrims resorting to Gya, will also be removed in this way. It is, however, suggested that the whole line of road should not be taken up by the railway, but sufficient space should be left for the passage of carts and foot-passengers. While on this subject, the editor is anxious to direct the attention of Government to the necessity of constructing a branch railway from Calcutta through Baraset to Jessore.

SAHACHAR.

19. The same paper dwells on the excessive amount of work required of the present District Magistrates, and remarks that they should be relieved of a portion. Under the present arrangement, they are required to attend to criminal, revenue, municipal, educational, and a large number of other duties, which it is impossible for a single man to overtake, either with credit to himself or good to the public. This over-work has injured the health of many of these officers, while their duties are performed perfunctorily, and not generally with satisfaction. Educational matters should, as before,

be entrusted to the Director of Public Instruction, and the task of hearing appeals from the decisions of second and third class Magistrates should be entrusted to Sessions Judges.

20. In the course of a lengthy editorial entitled "What are we to do now?" the *Pratidhwani*, of the 21st September, writes thus:—The British Indian Association is not capable of training up the people in the knowledge of their rights. It has never sought to do this, nor is it likely that it will. It is busy with the interests of zemindars alone. Lest a knowledge of their rights on the part of the tenantry may interfere with the interests of their landlords, the subject is not attended to. Whatever conduces to the good of the landholding classes is approved of and advocated by the Association. At the same time, it cannot be denied that it has done some good to the country at large. The more important and outspoken of its members are easily won over to Government by the conferment of honorable titles and seats in the Legislative Council. It is only when the people in general learn to discuss public affairs, and value their own rights, that Government will be obliged to give way and rectify its shortcomings.

PRATIDHWANI,
September 21st, 1875.

21. The *Samāchār Chandrikā*, of the 20th September, notices it as a significant fact that, by a profuse distribution of empty titles and honors, the British Government is gradually putting down all independence of thought and expression among natives, who have a peculiar weakness in this direction. All the leading men in native society have been thus won over, and there are scarcely any who will raise their voice against public wrongs. This state of obsequious dependence is to be greatly deplored.

SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
September 20th, 1875.

22. The *Sambād Prabhākar*, of the 18th September, asks Government to increase the pay of the guru-mahāshayas of the Campbell pāthshālās, as they are obliged, owing to their scanty income, to supplement it, by levying schooling fees of about four annas a head from the pupils, which, however, they pay with no small difficulty. Pāthshālās, again, sometimes break up from the illness or the temporary absence of the teacher. The Inspectors are hardly aware of this.

SAMBAD PRABHAKAR,
September 18th, 1875.

23. The same paper complains that the Calcutta Municipality does not support any free school for the education of poor native children in the metropolis; nay, there is no such institution, except one maintained by the Shil Baboos, which, by-the-bye, is not satisfactorily managed.

SAMBAD PRABHAKAR.

24. The *Akhbār-ul-Akhiār* urges the following for the consideration of Government, prior to passing its final decision, as to whether Urdu or Hindi should be used in Behār:—

AKHBAR-UL-AKHIAR,
September 15th, 1875.

First.—As a test, let any person possessing a competent knowledge of Hindi try and undertake the translation of any Government Code into that language, without calling to his aid a single Urdu, Persian, Arabic, or commonly used Sanskrit word. If this can be properly done, then Hindi should be adopted; but in case of failure, the use of the Urdu language should be preserved.

Second.—Let enquiries be made as to the number of books or newspapers printed and published in each of these languages, and it will be found that Urdu preponderates.

25. This paper, in writing an article on the past and present state of the Darbhanga Rāj, observes that, without a doubt, this tract of country has much improved since it has been placed under the control of the Court of Wards, and all the old debts with which it was encumbered have been paid.

AKHBAR-UL-AKHIAR.

off: the present Rájkumár, too, has had his education properly attended to, and every thing seems to be going on well in connection with the estate; but it is to be regretted that the Rájkumár and his brother have, with their education, adopted the European costume,—a fact which must be deplored for many reasons, and no doubt will be disapproved of by Government. People of this country have always stood aloof from receiving an English education on account of a dread, that such education would lead to a change of native habits, manners, and costumes; and these views have now been strengthened as exemplified in the case of the Darbhanga Maháráj-kumár.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 25th September 1875.

JOHN ROBINSON,

Government Bengali Translator.

List of Native Newspapers received and examined for the Week ending the 25th September 1875.

No.	Names.	Place of publication.	Monthly, weekly, or otherwise.	Date.
1	"Rungpore Dik Prakásh" ...	Kákinia, Rungpore ...	Weekly ...	2nd September.
2	"Rájsháhye Samáshár" ...	Karachmáris, Rájsháhye ...	Ditto ...	3rd ditto.
3	"Suhrid" ...	Muktágáchá, Mymensingh ...	Ditto ...	14th ditto.
4	"Burrisal Bártábhá" ...	Burrisal ...	Ditto ...	15th ditto.
5	"Hindu Ranjiká" ...	Bauleah, Rájsháhye ...	Ditto ...	15th ditto.
6	"Bishwa Dút" ...	Kálighát, Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	16th ditto.
7	"Amrita Basar Patriká" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	16th ditto.
8	"Dacca Darshak" ...	Dacca ...	Ditto ...	16th ditto.
9	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	Ditto ...	17th ditto.
10	"Bhárat Sangakarak" ...	Harinávi, 24-Pergunnahs ...	Ditto ...	17th ditto.
11	"Grámbártá Prakáshiká" ...	Comerocolly ...	Ditto ...	18th ditto.
12	"Hindu Hitáishini" ...	Dacca ...	Ditto ...	18th ditto.
13	"Dacca Prakásh" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	19th ditto.
14	"Som Prakásh" ...	Chángripottáh, 24-Pergunnahs. ...	Ditto ...	20th ditto.
15	"Sahachar" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	20th ditto.
16	"Pratidhwani" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	21st ditto.
17	"Sulabha Samáshár" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	21st ditto.
18	"Samáshár Chandriká" ...	Ditto ...	Bi-weekly ...	20th ditto.
19	"Sambád Prabhákar" ...	Ditto ...	Daily ...	13th to 15th September.
20	"Sambád Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	16th and 17th, and 20th to 24th September.
21	"Akhabár-ul-Akhiár" (in Urdu) ...	Mozufferpore ...	Bi-monthly ...	15th ditto.
22	"Jám Jehán-namá" (in Persian) ...	Calcutta ...	Weekly ...	17th ditto.
23	"Urdu Guide" (in Urdu) ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	18th ditto.
24	"Behár Bandha" (in Hindi) ...	Patna ...	Ditto ...	15th ditto.

Bengal Secretariat Press.